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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 11 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As representative of the country currently chairing the Meeting of Presidents of Central America, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of the documents issued at the special meeting held on 5 October 1995, in Costa del Sol, La Paz Department, Republic of El Salvador, by the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, namely:

(a) Declaration by the Central American Presidents on the peace process in Guatemala (see annex I);

(b) Position of the Central American Presidents on the item entitled "Education as a vital element of economic and social development" on the occasion of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on 16 and 17 October 1995 (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX I

Declaration by the Central American Presidents on the Peace Process in Guatemala

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua and the Vice-President of Panama, meeting in Costa del Sol, La Paz Department, Republic of El Salvador at the invitation of President Calderón Sol, have decided to issue the following declaration:

Considering the progress made in the peace processes in the region,

Recalling the pronouncements on this important subject made at earlier Central American Summits,

Encouraged by the commitments signed within the framework of the negotiations aimed at bringing peace and reconciliation to Guatemala,

Desiring that this process should speedily culminate in an agreement on a firm and lasting peace,

Taking into account the Contadora Declaration signed recently by the Guatemalan political parties attending the meeting sponsored by the Central American Parliament, which states that the agreements signed between the current Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca are commitments on the part of the State and as such should be assumed by the next Government,

In view of the fact that presidential elections are to be held soon in that country,

Decide to:

Urge the candidates for the presidency to declare publicly their commitment to the consolidation of the reconciliation and the firm and lasting peace to which the people of Guatemala are entitled and to the content of the Contadora Declaration;

Encourage all sectors of Guatemalan society to join in these efforts;

Invite the United Nations to continue providing support for the attainment and consolidation of peace in our region;

Request President Calderón Sol, in his capacity as current Secretary and as representative of the undersigned Governments, to take steps vis-à-vis the United Nations and the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan peace process in order that they may evaluate that process and adopt

measures aimed at accelerating the negotiations so that the definitive peace agreement may be signed as soon as possible.

Costa del Sol, La Paz Department, Republic of El Salvador, 5 October 1995

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERÓN SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA IDIÁQUEZ
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS de CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Tomás Gabriel ALTAMIRANO DUQUE
First Vice-President
Republic of Panama

ANNEX II

Position of the Central American Presidents on the item entitled "Education as a vital element of economic and social development" on the occasion of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on 16 and 17 October 1995

We, the Central American Presidents, aware that the strengthening of democracy and the consolidation of peace can only be achieved through economic and social development, have accorded it the highest priority within the framework of the Alliance for Sustainable Development as an essential obligation of our States.

We recognize that the human person is the focus and subject of development and therefore attach particular importance to investing in people, thus fostering their creative and productive capacity and contributing to their full self-realization.

We consider education to be a basic human right which permits the complete development of the individual and enables men and women to become beings capable of enjoying a full life, thus creating a region of equality of opportunity, with a view to the formation of the free trade area of the Americas in the year 2005.

We have therefore undertaken a commitment to direct our efforts towards improving the quality and scope of educational coverage, as a means of contributing to the advancement of the peoples of Central America.

We consider that the strengthening of Ibero-American cooperation and the promotion of education for peace and democracy in Central America are of fundamental importance.

We emphasize our commitment to give a decisive impetus to the effort to achieve universal literacy in the region before the year 2000. We reiterate our decision to establish a literacy programme that promotes the spirit, unity, values and identity of Central America, while respecting the ethnic and cultural reality of each society. We urge the Ibero-American community to support us in these efforts.

Costa del Sol, La Paz Department, El Salvador, 5 October 1995

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President of the
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERÓN SOL
President of the
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro de LEON CARPIO
President of the
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA IDIÁQUEZ
President of the
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS de CHAMORRO
President of the
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Tomás Gabriel ALTAMIRANO DUQUE
Vice-President of the
Republic of Panama